

REMARKS

By this paper, claim 1 has been amended and new claims 43-49 have been added. Additionally, claims 28-39 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 43-49 are pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated October 5, 2005, claims 1, 6, 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hyodoh et al. (2003/0040772). Claims 3-6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 28-39 were among claims withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. It is further to be noted that claims 2, 7, 9-11, 14, 17-27 and 40-42 were canceled in a paper filed on August 27, 2003.

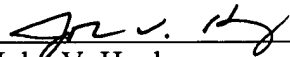
Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a device comprising an elongate filament with first and second ends at least one of which having a circumferential dimension as well as a plurality of circumferentially spaced endless reversals of direction of the filament. Accordingly, it is believed that independent claim 1 as well as pending claims 3-6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 43-49 define patentable subject matter. Significantly, the Hyodoh et al. reference does not teach a device comprising an elongate filament formed to define a generally tubular body with at least one of first and second ends including a plurality of circumferentially spaced endless reversals of direction of the filament. Although the Hyodoh et al. reference teaches devices formed from a single wire, such devices do not include circumferentially spaced endless reversals of direction at an end thereof. Notably, the Hyodoh et al. reference describes the structures depicted in FIGS. 15, 50A-C, 57A-D and 60 as being formed from a single wire. Clearly, these structures do not include ends with a plurality of circumferentially spaced endless reversals of direction. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of pending claims 1, 3-8, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 43-49 define subject matter which is patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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